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April 7, 2015

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
2112 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on February 25, 2015 at the hearing entitled "The Uncertain Future of the Internet." I am happy to address your question. Please find both the question and my response below.

- 1. Congressman Boucher, if the FCC reclassifies broadband services as "telecommunications services," the U.S. will be subjecting broadband services to far more government control than ever before, including the potential to dictate important aspects of network management.**

How would the U.S. have any credibility telling other countries, like China or Iran, not to control network management in their countries if we are taking large steps in that direction here?

During President Clinton's administration the decision was made to treat broadband as an information service with minimal government regulation. Over the past two decades, the United States has with marked success urged governments around the world to replicate the American model of an Internet free from government dictates. As part of that advocacy, we could point to our own regulatory model and to the tremendous levels of innovation and investment which light touch regulation spawned in our country. Due in no small part to the information services designation the US Internet has enjoyed since the earliest days of its commercialization, our Internet ecosystem from edge providers to robust broadband delivery infrastructures has become the envy of the world. I am concerned that the tremendous regulatory uncertainty which accompanies the imposition of Title II common carrier requirements on broadband will reverse that progress and among other harms diminish our ability to advocate internationally for minimal Internet regulation.

All of which underscores the need for Congress to act quickly to pass bipartisan legislation which assures statutory permanence for network neutrality principles while



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maintaining information services status for broadband. There is a clear opportunity for both Democrats and Republicans to achieve their core policy objectives with a narrowly drawn bipartisan measure. Democrats can achieve the goal they have sought for a decade of giving permanence to strong network neutrality principles. By placing a designation of broadband as an information service in the statute, Republicans can achieve their goal of continuing the light touch regulatory approach to the Internet which encourages both innovation and investment. Passage of such a measure would also enable the continuation of our global advocacy for an Internet free of government intrusion.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Very truly yours,

Rick Boucher